

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 25-34 are pending. Claims 1-24 are cancelled, and claims 25-34 are added herein. No new matter is added.

Decision on Appeal

The Board sustained the examiner's rejections of claims 1, 6, 9-11, 15-18, and 22-24 under 35 USC 102, and the examiner's rejection of claims 7, 8, and 21 under 35 USC 103. The Board did not sustain the examiner's rejections of claims 2-4, 12-13, and 19-20 under 35 USC 102, and the examiner's rejection of claims 5 and 14 under 35 USC 103.

Response to Decision on Appeal

Applicants disagree with the Decision on Appeal in that it sustained the examiner's rejections of claims 1, 6, 9-11, 15-18, and 22-24 under 35 USC 102, and the examiner's rejection of claims 7, 8, and 21 under 35 USC 103. Applicants again assert that the claims have been distinguished over Teper and Stranberg, alone or in combination.

However, the amendments to the claims provided herein attempt to progress prosecution with respect to the allowable subject matter. The subject matter of claims 25-34 corresponds to the subject matter for which the Board did not sustain the Examiner's rejections. As indicated by the Decision on Appeal, the subject matter of claims 25-34 is allowable over the combination of Teper and Stranberg, and thus should be allowed to issue.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to the rejected and/or cancelled claims.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-34 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C.

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Steven J. Prewitt, Reg. No. 45,023

Pacwest Center
1211 SW Fifth Ave., Ste 1600-1900
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 222-9981
FAX: (503) 796-2900